The Lions' Pride

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Meet Saint Leo's 2013 Commencement Speaker: A politician in the making

By Christabelle Lteif
Contributing Writer

Katie David was chosen by all her classmates as Saint Leo's 2013 commencement speaker.

"I'm so excited and honored," she exclaimed.

Katie is 21 years old from Raccoon, Pa., a senior here at the University, and double majoring in history and political science.

In her four years, Katie has always been quiet about her accomplishments and prefers not to impress people by her words, but by her actions.

Sep. 11, 2001, one of the most tragic days in American history, Katie David watched the news and felt obligated to never allow an event like that to occur ever again. Katie was only 10 years old when she developed a potent interest in the world of politics.

She was selected to represent Saint Leo University at the 2012 National Republican Convention, where she stayed for two weeks, two blocks away from the Tampa Bay Times Forum, and listened to some of America's most established politicians. She even received a scholarship from it.

As a four-year member of the swim team and a usual Dean's List recipient, Katie is a part of the University's Athletic President's Club, which honors exceptional student-athletes. She was also president of Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honor Society), secretary of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), and an active member of the Student Government Union.

Katie has won nearly 20 awards in her time at the University, all which emphasize her academic and personal strengths as a student. When asked what she thinks about herself and all her accomplishments.

"I'm just trying to fulfill my potential, everyone should," she said.

After graduation in spring 2013, Katie plans to attend law school at Florida State University, in fall 2013 and is currently awaiting her admission decision. She hopes for an internship in the legislature and to possibly begin a job in the state department.

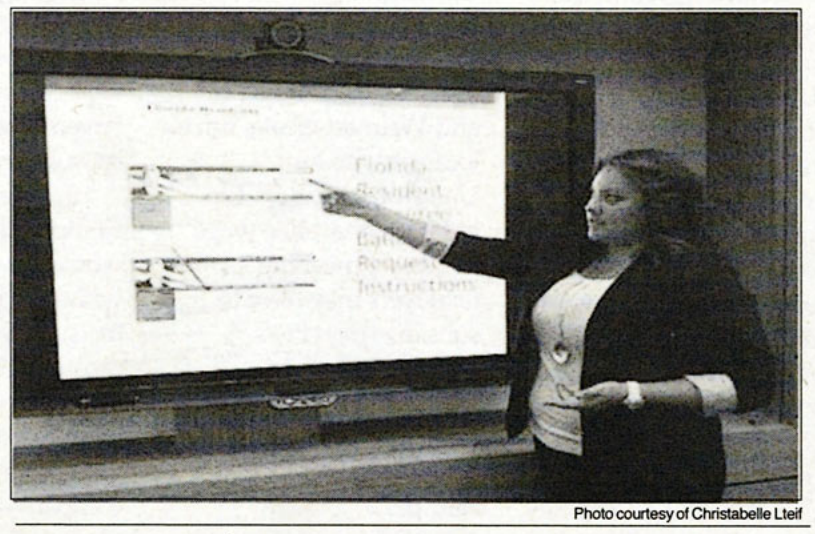

Photo courtesy of Christabelle Lteif

Ideally, she would like to become a senator.

On Feb. 13, 2013, Katie even had the chance to meet and have a VIP dinner with Jeb Bush, former Florida governor, before his speech at the University.

"Speaking of my future makes me realize how much I'm going to miss my team, friends, and professors. All these people combined made my experience here at Leo unparalleled and unforgettable," Katie said.

For right now, Katie would like to inform students that she tutors history and political science majors in the LRC and would love to assist any student in need of some help.

For information on Katie David's LRC tutoring: KatherineDavid@emailsaintleo.edu

DUI speaker prepares students for a safe spring break

By Annie Hays
Contributing Writer

"How many people in this room killed their three best friends while driving drunk?" asked Mark Sterner. He was the only one to raise his hand.

Mark was a recent guest speaker at the school who shared his story about spring break his senior year of college. Mark was 21, and he and his friends Aaron, Pete , Jim and Darren decided to vacation in Sanibel Island, Fl. On the last night of the trip they all got extremely drunk and tried to videotape the experience.

"Before heading out to the bar that night, we decided to do Jäger Bombs."

Then the boys drove to the bar at 100 miles per hour down the highway. Mark was at the wheel.

After a night of more alcohol and lots of drunk dancing as shown in the video, someone had to drive to a hotel in Sanibel. It was only a 15 minute drive. Mark was the least drunk, so he was given the keys. Then they crashed two miles from the hotel.

"I talked to a paramedic on the scene," said Mark, "There was 200 yards of skid from where I lost control of the car to where we crashed in the ditch. First they found Jim dead. Next they found Aaron crushed under the car, obviously dead. Then they found the only other survivor, Darren, sitting up in a ditch. Pete was in the woods. He crashed into the trees and died. 10 feet away there I was. I had lost one-third of the blood in my body, and the paramedic was shocked I was alive."

After Mark's mother got the dreaded phone call in Philadelphia, she had to spend 12 hours wondering if Mark was alive or dead.

"Mom called the hospital every half hour. She would ask for the nurse, the nurse would give her an update. There was no change until 6:30 a.m. After a long pause the nurse said I wasn't breathing and my vitals had gone down. After that Mom didn't call anymore because she was too scared."

Mark then took this opportunity to make the audience think about their loved ones if the audience member was about to die in an hour.

Sophomore Stephanie Gilbert was most impacted by Mark's question about what you would say or do to your loved ones if you were about to die in an hour. "I would tell my boyfriend Matt that he would be with me no matter how far away we were, and I would always be in his heart. This experience will make me not want to drink particularly over break because it really hit home for me. My grandparents and my aunt were all alcoholics."

Eventually his family did get down to Florida. Mark's condition was not good for a long time, and he had to undergo several surgeries. Finally two weeks later he woke up, thought he saw his family, and then fell back asleep another week. When he awoke his brother was there.

"It's about time you woke up," said his brother, "I was afraid if I left you you'd die."

Eventually the Sanibel Police showed up. The headline on the paper the next morning read "Spring Breaker to be

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Check out what's inside this issue!

News

Bass Pro Shops Subsidy: Job Creator or Political Disaster?

By Shane Holman
Managing Editor

In Hillsborough County just a few weeks ago a subsidy of over $6 million was given to entice Bass Pro Shops to do business in the Brandon, FL area. The Hillsborough County Commission voted 6 to 1 in favor of the subsidy, with Commissioner Kevin Beckner as the only no vote. This means a few hundred new retail jobs for area residents. The greater questions are at what cost, will this become a routine practice, and what does the community have to say?

In the current economy politicians and job seekers are almost equally concerned with lowering unemployment, and bringing new jobs to their local area. The controversy doesn't arise over the reality that we need more jobs, but rather what kind of jobs and where at? In the Tampa Bay area there has been a significant community of advocates and small business leaders that do not believe that Bass Pro Shops is bringing the right kind of jobs to our community. Further more, several believe there will be more negative contributions than prosperous out of the jobs brought in from the Bass Pro Shops retailer.

Tampa lawyer, advocate, and former Hillsborough County Democratic Party Chair Patricia Kemp expressed her concerns about the economic impact of the Bass Pro decision in a letter to the editor in the Tampa Bay Times:

"Studies show that for every two jobs Bass Pro and Walmart create, three local jobs are lost. Unfortunately, Bass Pro has a Walmart-like wage structure, meaning taxpayers may have to subsidize Bass Pro's workers (as we do Walmart) with public assistance — housing, health care and food stamps.

When government gives taxpayer money to a favored business, it must tax the rest of the public with that missing share. Small businesses or those less connected to government leaders or those that cannot hire lawyers and lobbyists to fight for their own subsidies are left holding the bag. All these subsidies further create an unlevel playing field."

The potential outcome of this kind of business practice could result in systemic poverty for many. For job seekers the idea of starting a new job connects with ideas of independence and providing for their families. However, personal independence doesn't seem to mesh with a company that expects employees to use personal government subsidies for a benefits package. Countless documentaries and economic studies have addressed the issue of companies under-employing so that benefits will not be required. Is this the kind of business that we as citizens and tax payers want to encourage by subsidy?

Further more, Pat Kemp adds that "Bass Pro would have moved here without a dime," and that the subsidy that was mostly for road improvements would not have been a complete game changer for the company's relocation plans.

The broader question to address is whether or not the model of subsidies will be used in the future to address the local jobs crisis. From a business standpoint it certainly provides a strong incentive for larger companies to relocate to a specific location. However, on the small business side and for companies who did not receive a subsidy it provides an unfair advantage in the market.

Whether or not subsidies will be used again relies largely on political engagement, and citizens responses. The Tampa Bay Times reports that this decision will likely be a key issue in the 2014 campaign for Hillsborough County Commissioner Al Higginbotham who willbe running countywide. Two Democratic candidates have already filed to run against Higginbotham for the 2014 election.

The whole Hillsborough County commission from the Hillsborough County Commission main page

The community has already begun to respond to the subsidy in a variety of perspectives reflecting both business interests and individual concerns.

Independent business and community banking researcher Stacy Mitchell responds in the Tampa Bay Times: "When they (say) a lot of people are drawn to a municipality that has a Bass Pro Shop, those are not people that are driving long distances," said Stacy Mitchell, who criticized stores including Walmart in her book "The Big Box Swindle"...They're mostly coming from the region; they're not new dollars from far outside the region. You're sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul."

A Top Golf sports and entertainment complex is likely to share the shopping plaza with Bass Pro in Brandon. Ace Golf Driving Range owner Bill Place of Brandon, FL voiced his concern in the Tampa Bay Times over the unlevel playing field for Bass Pro & Top Golf in relation to what the small business community has to compete with.

Following the subsidy vote Commissioner Higginbotham commented in the Tampa Bay Times"I worked hard on and studied and tried to understand both sides of the issue."

The coming months will tell how the community responds to Bass Pro's opening, and voters will decide next year if this matter really impacted them or not.

The Lions' Pride

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Letters to the editor to The Lions' Pride should be no more than 500 words in length and should not include profane or slanderous language. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and libel; as well as the right to publish or not. All submissions should be sent to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship.

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News

Crystal River Power Plant and the energy it is causing

Jessica Miller
Assistant Layout

Ever since its opening on Dec. 3, 1976, the Crystal River Power Plant has been collecting some interesting numbers. The numbers have received more intrigue lately and have given little comfort to the consumers and employees connected to the plant.

On Feb. 5, 2013, the world was informed of the closing of the Crystal River Power Plant, and now the community, employees, and consumers are left with questions about why it has happened and how it will impact the future look.

To tackle the first question, we need to look back at the start of the plant in 1976. Although the plant did not start producing power till the start of 1977, there were already concerns when the dome had to be reinforced by additional steel. And then all was quiet until 20 years later in 1996. The plant had shut down because of issues and concerns with the backup diesel generators.

The plant was closed for a year and a half, and opened back up in 1998. Everyone thought they could relax a bit because the plant was in full swing. This meant more employees, more families moving into the area, and more money spent to raise the economy. However, there were cracks discovered on the walls of the containment building in 2009. Employees tried for to fix the crack, but realized that the work they were putting into the plant was causing more harm.

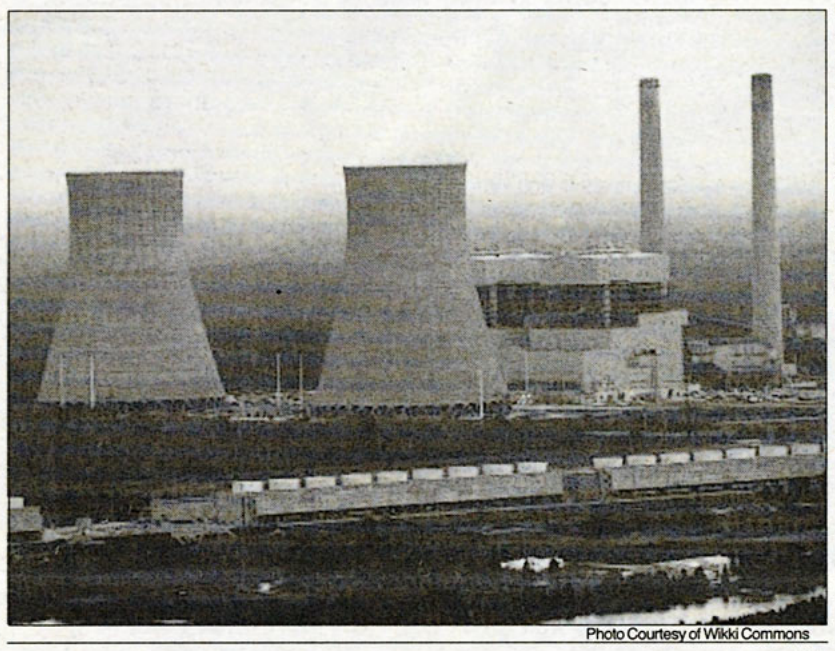

Photo Courtesy of Wikki Commons

According to Duke Energy's release about the closing:

"The process of repairing the damage and restoring the unit to service resulted in additional delaminations in other sections of the containment structure in 2011."

Still, there was hope for the plant to go into full operation one day. That was until this year. Duke Energy announced, because of high costs and the extended time that would have to be added, the plant was to close again permanently.

What are the employees and the community of Crystal River to do since the plant was a vital organ to the city? According to Duke Energy in their release:

"The company (Duke Energy) intends to use the SAFSTOR option for decommissioning. Generally, this involves placing the facility into a safe storage configuration, requiring limited staffing to monitor plant conditions, until the eventual dismantling and decontamination activities occur, usually in 40 to 60 years."

After the safety precautions have been made to lose the plant, Duke Energy comments that they will look to putting in an another type of energy plant. What it will be and when it will come has not been determined yet.

For the employees, Duke Energy announced that of the estimated 600 employees, they plan to keep many on for the "dismantling and decontamination" work they see in the future for this plant. While this news does give employees and families breathing room in the employment area, it is still a huge worry for the future of the Crystal River area.

How will things look in the future when people and businesses have left for other towns and cities that can offer something more dependable and less stressful? We will have to look to the future with hope and opportunities for the area.

Mosquito problems in Florida getting even bigger

Stephanie Holz
Staff Writer

In addition to gigantic sinkholes, poisonous snakes, and heavy storms, a new resident known as the Gallinippers Mosquito has come to plague the state.

As the storm clouds of summer roll closer to Florida, the Gallinippers Mosquito will begin to lay its eggs in local puddles and other bodies of water and emerge to plague residents both on land and in water. Being the largest mosquito in the United States, it has been known to attack humans, pets, and some aquatic life such as fish and tadpoles. It has even caused some elementary school children to run screaming back to the classroom from recess.

Native to the east coast of the United States, the Gallinippers are about 20 times larger than the common mosquitoes Floridians have grown used to seeing, putting them around the size of a quarter. According to the Huffington Post, Doug Carlson the director of the Indian River County Mosquito Control said that due to the size of the insect "it can feel like a small bird landed on you."

Unlike the common mosquito, female Gallinippers can bite through clothing and are somewhat resistant to chemical pesticides. Some people compare the bite of the bug to being poked with a knife. In 1867, David Flanery, a writer for the Journal "Nature" described them as being "the little zebra legged thing-the shyest, slyest, meanest and most venomous of them all." Despite this description, the mosquito does not actually contain venom.

The male Gallinipper, on the other hand, has feathery antennae and feeds off of the nectar in flowers. They do not bite and are occasionally attracted to light, much like the common moth.

On the plus side, the Gallinipper does not carry the West Nile Virus or encephalitis and it eats the larvae of the common mosquito. Their name comes from the belief that the critters suck up to a gallon of blood from a single bite.

Due to their enormous capacity to bite, many people are looking for ways to relieve the pain during the rainy season. Some of the best ways to protect yourself are to be aware if one lands on you and brush it off before it has a chance to bite. The insects are large and clumsy, and can potentially be swatted off before they have the chance to strike. DEET has some effect on the Gallinipper. However, it takes large quantities to produce somewhat adequate protection.

For more information of the Gallinipper Mosquito, please visit http://www.pascomosquito.org/oldsite/.

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charged with Friends' Death. Maximum Sentence 45 Years."

While the video of drunken revelries had been playing, Mark had left the room and changed into an orange prison jumpsuit. Finally the audience learned what this foreshadowing had meant.

Faced with three charges of DUI manslaughter Mark could have "never guessed how quickly and dramatically [his] life would change forever."

He had been the first person in his family to go to college. Three months away from graduation he became the first person in his family to go to prison.

Fortunately his friends' parents felt sorry for him, and he got off with three years. Unfortunately those three years had to be spent in a Florida state maximum security prison where he lived with murderers, rapists, and the like. Because he had been to college, he was "beat up every which way," and thought "I'd die every day I left my cell."

"The presentation left me speechless." said Freshman Becca Price. "This was the first time I actually heard from someone that was in the car. Hearing his story is something I will never forget."

"The part that had the biggest impact on me was the fact that they were only two miles from their hotel. It just showed me how easily this can all happen. It definitely made me not want to drink and drive."

Mark hopes that this is the reaction most people felt. "I do this so that the worst thing you ever do isn't kill your best friend."

"Time heals all wounds, that's just not true," said Mark. "Prison's over, but what I live with every day- nightmares, what's in my heart, that's my punishment. I killed my best friends, and I can never bring them back."

The School of Arts and Sciences

Dedicated, Diverse...DIFFERENT!

Did you know that you can take courses in...

ENG 300: Harry Potter! MWF 11:30 am-12:20 pm

Prerequisite ENG 122 Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Stasio

We will read all of J.K. Rowling's novels about the boy who lived and visit The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando (a required field trip) to investigate such themes as love, death, and choice. This class is the counterpart to PHI 300: Love, Death, and Harry Potter. The two classes will engage in direct competition via poster displays, video presentations, oral presentations, and papers to see who belongs at the real Hogwarts, which will be announced at an end-of-term banquet. Don't be a muggle or a squib. Register for a magical class.

PHI 300: Love, Death, and Harry Potter

MWF 11:30am-12:20pm - Prerequisite: PHI-101 or HON-150

Instructor: Ian Rottenberg (ian.rottenberg@saintleo.edu)

The best books and films give expression to the most meaningful and challenging aspects of our lives, such as love and death. Using J.K. Rowling's texts as background material, this course will examine philosophical answers to questions that matter to us the most. In the spirit of these remarkable works, we will engage in academic competitions with the ENG 300 class, take a required field trip to Universal Studios, and enjoy an end-of-semester banquet to celebrate our achievements. It is assumed students taking this course will be familiar with all of the books and/or films in the Harry Potter series prior to the start of the semester. Do you have what it takes to be a chosen one?

ENG 440: Blogging and Social Media

TR 11:00 am-12:20 pm – Instructor: Valerie Kasper

Prerequisite ENG 205 or approval from the instructor.

Whether socializing on Facebook, updating Twitter, or posting to a blog, text and technology has become an integral part of our daily lives. Anyone can blog, tweet, or post, but few do it well or successfully. This class will focus on the effective planning, creating, and maintaining of a blog. Students will learn how to research a topic, find their voice, leverage their own skills/experiences, and effectively communicate their ideas to an online audience in both a written and a visual perspective. In addition, this class will also look at social media and its purpose and usefulness in society.

HTY 328: China, Japan and Korea 1420 to 1945

TR 2:00pm – Instructor: Doug Astolfi douglas.astolfi@saintleo.edu

Sweep through the history of the dominant powers of Asia from the days of the Khans to the end of WWII and rise of Mao. Study how Buddhism blended with Confucianism shaped the dynastic order in all three countries. Explore the reasons for the fall of the Mongol Empire, the rise of Ming China, the most powerful nation on earth, and its collapse in the 19th century. Examine how Japan emerged as a powerful modern nation while China remained mired in its past easily exploited by imperialists from the west. Uncover the reasons why a civilization born from empires and nurtured by Buddhist Monks could turn away from experiments in democracy to embrace Mao and modern totalitarianism.

SOC 330: Environmental Sociology

TR 11:00AM - Instructor: Patricia Campion (patricia.campion@saintleo.edu)

Physics, biology, and chemistry can help us understand the mechanics of environmental issues, but for sociologists, it's all about people. What are the social causes and consequences of environmental degradation? How do the media influence our opinion on the issues? Why is it that some people are affected worse than others? And more importantly, what can we do about it? Roll up your sleeves and find out in Environmental Sociology, where you will discuss these issues, and learn to be an advocate for an environmental cause you care about.

BIO 342: Estuarine Ecology

Prerequisite(s): BIO 125, BIO 126, and BIO 325

Professor Bill Ellis: bill.ellis@saintleo.edu MWF 10:30-11:20

Estuaries are special areas along the coast were fresh and salt water mix. Did you know that the majority of our seafood spends at least part of its life in an estuary? Join us as we study how these systems work and become familiar with the amazing animals and plants that call it home.

PHI 309: History of Philosophy I: Ancient to Medieval

MWF 12:30-1:20 PM Instructor: Dr. Aaron Fehir

Thinking about doing something a little different this term? Philosophy is for you! Studying philosophy is guaranteed to help you become a more critical thinker. And that's a valuable skill to have no matter what you plan to do with the rest of your life. It can also help you see the world in a different light and help you clarify your perspective on life. Think it might be impractical to take time out of your busy schedule to take a philosophy class? Think again. Studying philosophy has a proven track record of enabling students to better on standardized tests, such as the GRE, the LSAT, and the MCAT. And studying a little bit of philosophy can help you become better at… well, just about everything! Want to fight like philosophy major Bruce Lee? Or tell jokes like philosophy majors Steve Martin and Jimmy Kimmel? Or maybe you want to make money like philosophy major George Soros? Philosophy is all about thinking. And thinking, it turns out, tends to be a pretty useful skill to have. Who'd have thunk it? This is an excellent course for anyone considering a profession in law, ministry, medicine, business, or politics. It's also an excellent course for people who don't want to be told what to think or how to believe. Feel free to come talk with me if you need help deciding whether PHI 309 is for you!

HTY -300 Medieval Spain: The Reconquista 711-1492

M 5:00pm - Instructor: John Jackson john.jackson@saintleo.edu

In the year 711 the Visigothic kingdom of Spain unexpectedly fell to the raiding army of the Berbers of North Africa. The Berbers, recent converts to Islam, helped created a flourishing Empire for the Umayyad Caliphate, that stretched across the Mediterranean and into Asia. The Visigoths, in their defeat, fell back to the north, to the few remaining Suebian duchies of Galicia and Asturias. From these lands they stopped the advance of Islam in Spain. From these lands they launched a war that was to last 781 years-a war we call the Reconquista.

HTY 300: Fact and Fiction: What is real and what is myth in history

TR 12:30 Instructor: Doug Astolfi douglas.astolfi@saintleo.edu

Through comparative analyses of factual and fictional accounts of four critical events in American History this course asks how we construct the stories that make up our modern understanding of the American past. Using film and fiction juxtaposed against historical readings, we will confront the question of whether fact or fiction, myth or reality, rules our understanding of who we are as a nation.

EGN 330: Mechanics of Materials

Prerequisite(s): MAT 152 TR 2-3:20

Professor Leo Ondrovics: leo.ondrovic@saintleo.edu

Did you know the steel in a bridge will stretch out of shape when it fails, BEFORE the catastrophic failure of the bridge collapse? This ductile performance of solid materials, and the brittle behavior of other materials, is the focus of this course. Learn how materials used in engineering applications react to mechanical loads, and how to predict failure of these materials in this classic core Engineering course.

REL 200—Introduction to Public and Community Service

TR 12:30-1:50 Instructor: Michael J. Tkacik, Ph.D. (michael.tkacik@saintleo.edu)

Why serve? Do spirituality, education and/or democratic citizenship motivate service? How is community built? What determines communal membership and participation? What threatens communities? This course will critically examine such questions pertaining to service and community through the lenses of various disciplines. Therefore, students from a wide range of academic majors and minors are welcomed and encouraged to take the course. Participation in a community service is required. This course is unique in that it is committed to service-learning, community-based pedagogy and the consistent integration of service experiences into class discussions, reflections and writings. Service-Learning combines classroom learning with service experiences. Service acts as a "text" for the course and, together, students figure out how to "read" the "text" through classroom instruction and conversation. Service-Learning entails critical reflection on praxis. Consequently, students will be vital co-teachers of the course as they share and integrate their respective service experiences into the wider course experience.

REL 424 Death and the Meaning of Life

MWF 11:30- Tyson Anderson. tyson.anderson@saintleo.edu

Death and illness are capricious but universal phenomena. They can strike anyone at any time and they will strike everyone at some time. How should we cope with these facts and what attitude should we adopt toward these mortal lives of ours? The course will consider religious, philosophical, psychological and literary sources of meaning in the face of death and suffering.

MUS 120,220,320,420

Private instruction in piano, voice, strings, guitar and percussion. Students receive a minimum of ten private lessons during the semester with a qualified instructor on their instrument or voice. Semester fee is required. For more information please contact Allyson Marino (allyson.marino@saintleo.edu)

MUS-100-CA01

A Capella Group: Instructor Pamela Decius (Pamela.decius@saintleo.edu)

Our small group ensembles perform at campus events such as the biannual student art shows, poetry readings, recitals, and receptions. They also have many opportunities to perform in the community at local events, art galleries, and retirement communities.

MUS 100-CA02

Saint Leo Singers: Instructor Cynthia Selph (Cynthia.selph@saintleo.edu)

Choral ensemble that performs all styles of music from classical to pop to multi-cultural to gospel. This ensemble performs with a variety of instrumental accompaniment, and is open to all singers. Auditions for placement are held during the first week of classes.

MUS 130-CA01

String Ensemble: Intructor Kasia Dolinska (kasia.dolinska@saintleo.edu)

String Ensemble is a small performance group open to students of all levels of skill. The ensemble meets once a week for rehearsals throughout the semester, and they perform in venues such as the annual student art shows, the Christmas Concert, and student and faculty recitals. The group is led by violinist Kasia Dolinska, who also teaches private string instruction. Ms. Dolinska holds Masters Degrees from the Fryderyk Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland and the University of South Florida. Currently, she plays with the Florida Orchestra, Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and Tampa Opera.

ART 221: DRAWING

T 8:00 a.m. Taught by Trish Toms (trish.toms@saintleo.edu)

Artist and Educator, Freehand drawing from landscape, live models, and objects. with emphasis on training students to see, to understand, and to report through drawing. Six hours of studio per week.

ART 226: Beginning Photography

TR 8 am or 11 am - Instructor James Hughson: james.hughson@saintleo.edu

This is a course in the art and techniques of black & white photography and digital working from the fundamental thesis that when understood, the camera is a tool for exciting and individualistic image-making. The student will be expected to complete a set of "school figures" as well as "freestyle figures" in the use of the camera, learn to develop his/her own negatives and print his/her own images. There will be class time devoted both to darkroom work and group critiques of the images.

FRE 111-CA01: French level 1-A

W 3:30pm: Instructor TBA (Contact Elisabeth Aiken at Elisabeth.aiken@saintleo.edu for more information) Introduction to the fundamentals of pronunciation, conversation, grammar, and written communication through the acquisition of basic French vocabulary with an introduction to the culture of the francophone world.

GER 111-CA01: German Level 1-A

T 5:00pm: Instructor Carol Moon (caro.moon@saintleo.edu) introduction to the fundamentals of pronunciation, conversation, grammar, and written communication through the acquisition of basic German vocabulary with an introduction to the culture of German speaking countries.

SPA 111-CA01: Beginning Spanish

TR 2:00 Instructor Marcela van Olphen (Marcela.vanolphen@saintleo.edu) introduction to the fundamentals of pronunciation, conversation, grammar, and written communication through the acquisition of basic Spanish vocabulary.

Arts & Entertainment

Identity Thief: A Must See

By Christabelle Lteif
Contributing Writer

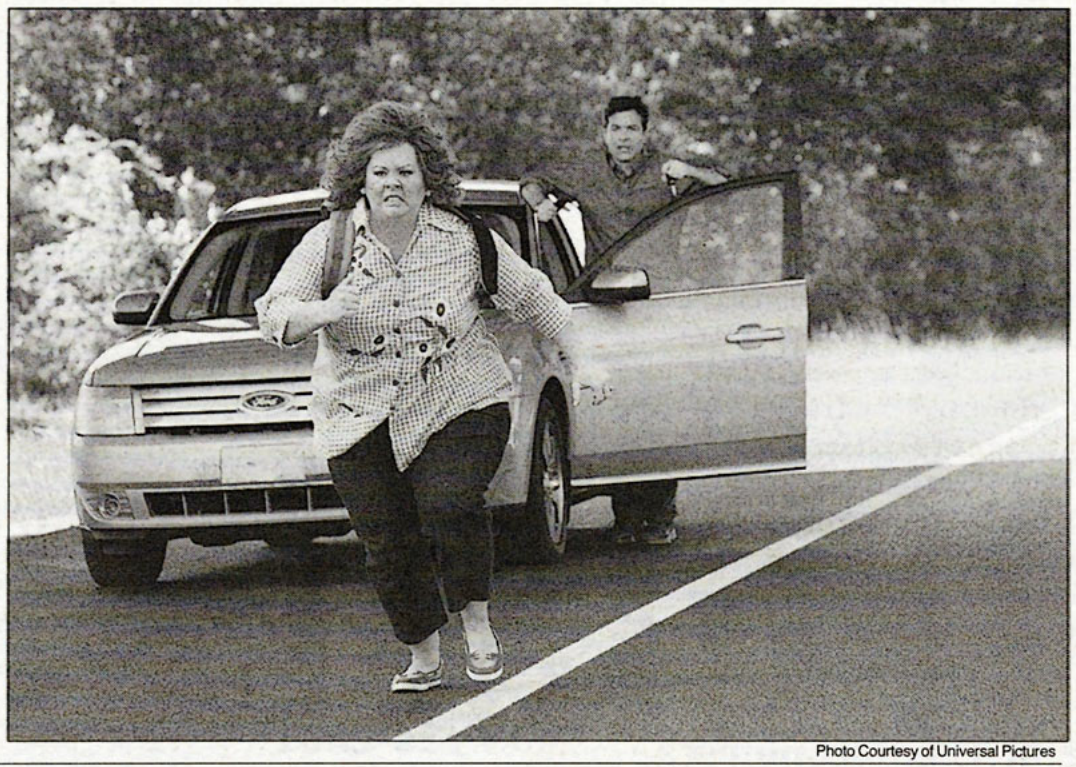

Photo Courtesy of Universal Pictures

"Sandy is a unisex name!" Sandy Patterson, yes that is a man, defends his name on more than one occasion, while on the mission to save his life. Director Seth Gordon, who also directed Horrible Bosses, has created another comedic masterpiece: Identity Thief.

Jason Bateman, who plays Sandy Patterson, and Melissa McCarthy, who plays Diana, were casted as the film's primary characters. Other notable cast members that were featured are rap mogul T.I., John Cho, Amanda Peet, and the saucy Genesis Rodriguez.

The storyline depicts the life of Sandy Patterson, who is an average, hard-working businessman. He struggles to make ends meet for his wife and kids, which is actually a relatable situation for many people, in regards to the current economic situation occurring. He has his identity stolen and his entire life altered. In order to save any chance of a positive reputation and financial stability for his family, Sandy Patterson is given one week to save his life and search for his "identity thief." When he finds the other Sandy Patterson, well Diana, he goes on the quite an adventure. After run-ins with the police, several punches to the throat, and some explicit, but hilarious moments— Patterson finds his identity, in more way than one.

The casting was exceptional, but the movie would have been improved if actress Betty White had played the role as the identity thief. White has more experience and is more fitted in this type of urban-comedy genre compared to McCarthy. Also, the length of the movie was unnecessarily long for the storyline at hand. If the movie was condensed to 80 or 90 minutes rather than 111 minutes, it would not be as excessively lengthy. The storyline was not credible either. When it comes to this movie, unless someone is willing to totally disregard reality, it's hard not to wonder how Diana was not busted long ago with all the crimes she has committed, especially in this day and age.

Regardless of slight concerns, what genuinely made the movie wonderful were the film's central messages: that everyone deserves a second chance and to have someone to lean on in life. These life lessons were delivered in such an unconventional way—through comedy. Subsequently, the film did not appear cliché or mundane.

As a disclaimer, it is important to note that alcohol, sexual content, and profanity are all present within the movie; although done in good humor, it can be offensive to viewers. However, from watching the reactions of others in the theatre, I doubt anyone minded. Laughter filled the theatre while watching this movie.

Ultimately, Identity Thief is a movie well worth the time and money to go see!

Movie Review: Dark Skies keeps audience on edge

By Jocelyne Hilary
Contributing Writer

Paranormal and supernatural movies are always captivating movie enthusiasts. Whether they be about zombies, ghosts or vampires, the idea of non-human intrigue us to see the movies and the horrors they bring. Following Mama, and preceding the much anticipated The Last Exorcism Part II, Dark Skies was released in movie theatres recently.

Dark skies is a mystery and suspense horror movie. It is brought to us by the same direction of Sinister, Insidious and Paranormal Activity. If you have seen any of those movies listed, you can already slightly expect the kind of movie you are going to see. It is also no doubt that this movie will have you jumping out of your seat. The movie stars a familiar face in the form of Keri Russell, the lead protagonist in the popular TV series currently airing, The Americans.

Like most movies of this genre, Dark Skies introduces viewers to a happy average family of four facing a financial strain. Little does the family know that they have been chosen as victims to experience extra-terrestrial phenomenon.

From unexplained breakings into the house, missing objects, the appearance of bizarre symbols, and disarrangements of objects, these strangers definitely did not come without a purpose. Reluctant to accept these weird events are happening, the family decides to remain tolerant and assume the children are responsible

However, as the events that follow turn out to be more surreal and bizarre than ever, the family has no choice but to resort to the police and undergo personal research.

The film keeps audiences on edge by not knowing what to expect next. As the family seeks professional help, they come to the misfortune of realizing that they may not be able to separate themselves from the extra-terrestrial.

What made this film stand out in particular was the fact that it wasn't similar to the other movies of this genre that were recently released. It did not involve zombies, ghosts or exorcisms, it had to do with aliens, and movies including these extra-terrestrial beings have been scarce of late.

Despite being full of suspense and keeping audiences at the edge of their seats, the main story line of the movie could have been developed further. The main reason as to why these aliens decided to come to earth and why they picked specific families wasn't thoroughly explained. The ending was disappointing in contrast to the buildup of the movie. It was a good movie, but there are definitely better

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Arts & Entertainment

Movie Review: Sinister has the scare factor

By Jocelyne Hilary
Contributing Writer

A great movie that has just been released this spring break is the new release Sinister. This is a horror/mystery movie that will have you hiding behind your friends back or pulling the covers over your eyes. If you are a person who loves a really good story line to a scary movie, not just a monster jumping out at you every minute, this is the perfect match for you.

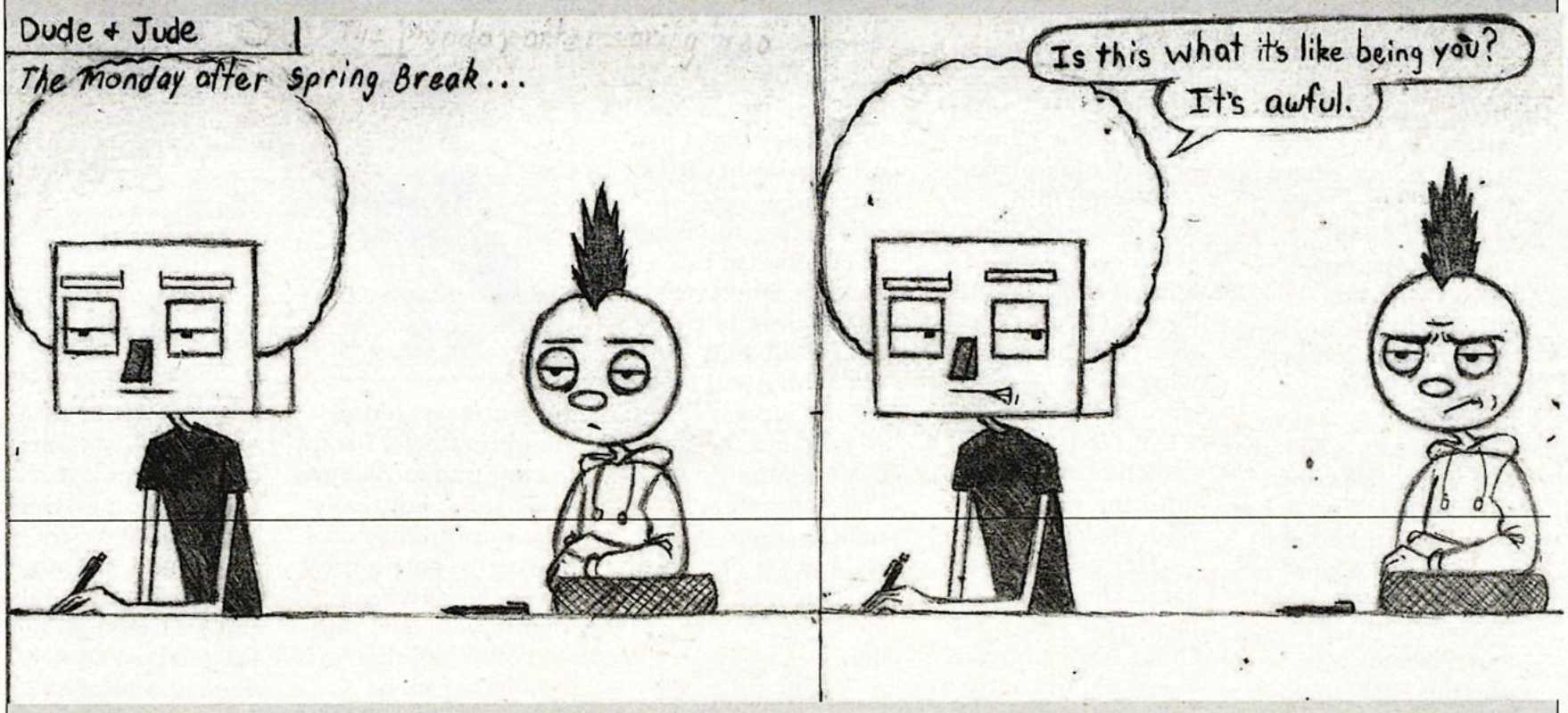
The movie Sinister is about a true-crime mystery novel writer named Ellison Oswalt. He moves his family across the country to a small town to try and start a new novel in order to replenish his dying career. This novel is about a missing girl who everyone in the town has presumed dead. He goes there to do research and make this book into a best seller. Under his wife's nose, Ellison moves the family into the house where the little girl went missing and where her entire family was murdered by getting hung from a tree.

As he is moving boxes into the attic, Ellison find a box full of old home movies. He starts to watch the movies and soon finds out these movies aren't your everyday run of the mill family fun home movies. These movies turn out to be bunches of videos capturing the murders of a few families, one is the family of the missing girl and it shows the family as they are being hung. This sparks Ellison's interest and his search for one girl turns into a massive puzzle to try and put these things together. As Ellison starts to watch these movies, weird things start happening to his wife, daughter, and son. His daughter starts talking to things that aren't there and his son starts to have night terrors. Late one night Ellison discovers a huge piece to the mystery while looking through all the footage, a similar face appears in every home present in the movies. Who is this person? What is this figure doing in all the movies? These are a few of the questions that Ellison and you will be asking until you watch Sinister. The movie takes many twists and turns, as these coincidental family murders are now linked to be serial and related to a potential supernatural force and cult.

Photo Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Sinister is a suspenseful thriller that will keep you guessing till the very end. It will make you want to hide under the bed, but at the same time you will not want to take your eyes off it. There is no boring part to this movie. Something is always happening and there is always more to figure out. This movie is not for everyone, but if you are up for the challenge it is definitely one horror movie enthusiasts will enjoy. With a great plot, talented new actors, and an ending one could not expect, it will be a challenge not to be frightened by this movie.

Dude & Jude weekly comic strip



Comic by: Wendy Legorete

Sports

Leonardo the Lion supports SLU baseball team

Nydjah Istatia
Contributing Writer

Coach O'connor, the head coach of the baseball team, invited a special guest from Dade City's Wildthings Zoo.

At 4 p.m., an ATV pulled the steel cage onto our baseball field. Inside, there was a majestic lion named Leonardo. The baseball team, as well as the lacrosse team, visited him and snapped team photographs with our school's mascot.

Coach O'connor contacted Wildthings and requested that a lion attend our baseball game. A few calls later, plans were constructed to bring Leonardo to our school and allow him to gaze over our fellow University Lions on the baseball field.

Our baseball team faced St. Anselm on Thursday night. The lions scored an impressive 13-6, while St. Anselm totaled out at 2-8-1. The game ended with a final score of 5-3, making this our third straight win.

Leonardo is an eight year old African lion who weighs in at a whopping 700 lb. He was born in captivity and is a fellow Floridian. Leonardo was adopted into a zoo five years ago, and has been a visitor favorite ever since. The sanctuary that he lived in before finding a home at Wildthings closed, and its owners were forced to find homes for all of their animals.

Each day, Leonardo eats 10-15 lb of meat. He crunches through the bones mercilessly, reminding observers of his raw power and strength.

Wildthings is a nonprofit animal sanctuary that is home to nearly 200 different animals. Cathy Stearns, one of the five company directors that manage the zoo, grew up in Florida and is a founder of Wildthings.

As Cathy described herself, she "has a strong passion for animals, they are a part of my life. Working with animals, giving great homes, and working with other conservations help motivate me to pursue my dreams."

Leonardo is a mild-tempered lion who can often be seen lying in his back or relaxing in the sun. His care providers describe him as a sweet and laid back lion that relaxes by lying on his back and enjoying the sun's warmth.

"People have a lot of misconceptions about the animals. Lions deserve to be loved, protected, and admired," she said.

At the zoo, Leonardo has a wife named Lovy, and she is a fellow African lion who was born in captivity. There is a picket fence around their habitat and visitors love the animalistic romance between the pair.

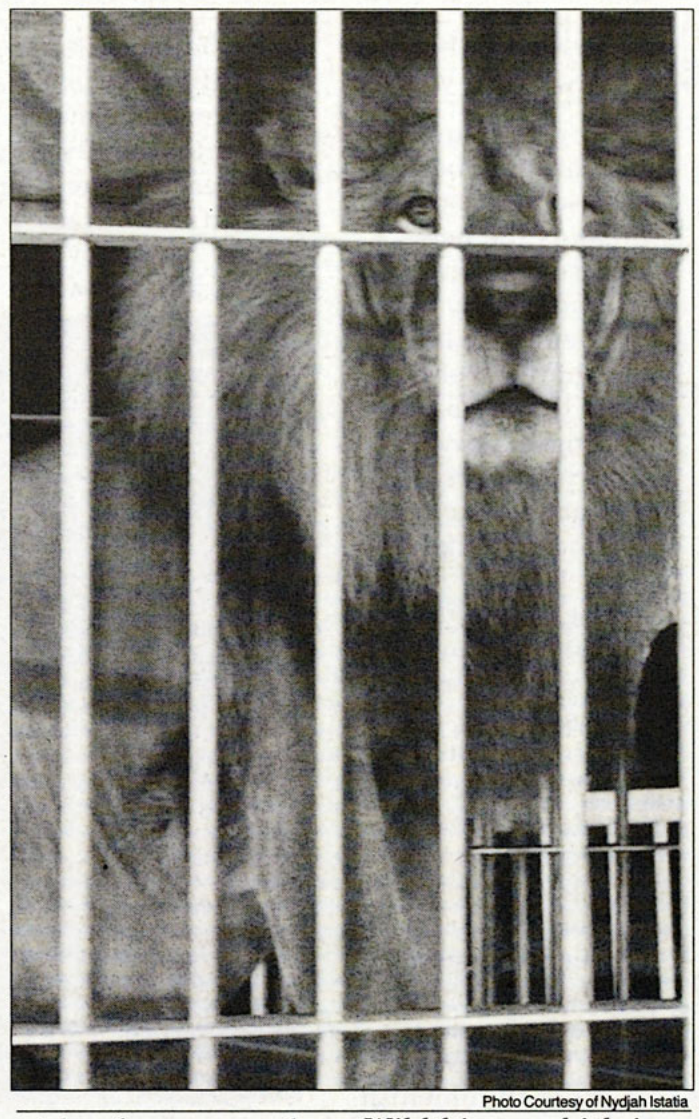


Photo Courtesy of Nydjah Istatia

Leonardo, his wife, and four other lions can be found at Wildthings, which is about a 10 minute drive from main campus. The zoo offers individual and group rates, so grab some friends and head on over!

Senior nets first career hat trick

Corey Saccone
Contributing Writer

Viscomi nets first career hat trick and continues to improve her game.

Saint Leo woman's lacrosse has been streaky thus far. They started off the season on a four game losing streak, and now currently have won two in a row. Many of the girls have been chipping in all around, but one player who has progressively improved is senior captain Alyssa Viscomi.

Not only is this the last year of playing collegiate lacrosse, but competitive lacrosse in general for the senior. The program started just last year, and Viscomi was playing basketball on a scholarship at the time. After her sophomore year, she made the transition over to women's lax and has not looked back.

The consistency and leadership seem to have come together nicely. In a double overtime win against Belmont Abbey, Saint Leo won 14-12. That is where the game of her life took place.

"Going into overtime says a lot about our team. My hope is that it sends a message loud and clear that no matter what the circumstance, we are a team that will contend and fight until the very end," said Viscomi.

Her grit for the game and approach to the media says a lot about her character. She is significantly improving game by game and gaining a ton of confidence. In that game Viscomi recorded her first career hat trick. An accomplishment that she will remember forever.

"After I scored my third goal, honestly I was on a high. I was filled with excitement and it took a second to register that I just achieved a hat trick," she said.

Scoring three goals in a game isn't enough, however. Continuing to play effectively and efficiently will be the key to success for Alyssa and the rest of her teammates. Positioning on the field is important to try and set herself up to score and create space to drive to the net.

"Hopefully my teammates will continue to confide in me and keep setting me up to drive. I want to continue to play my same style, but really look to capitalize on driving opportunities when they present themselves," she said.

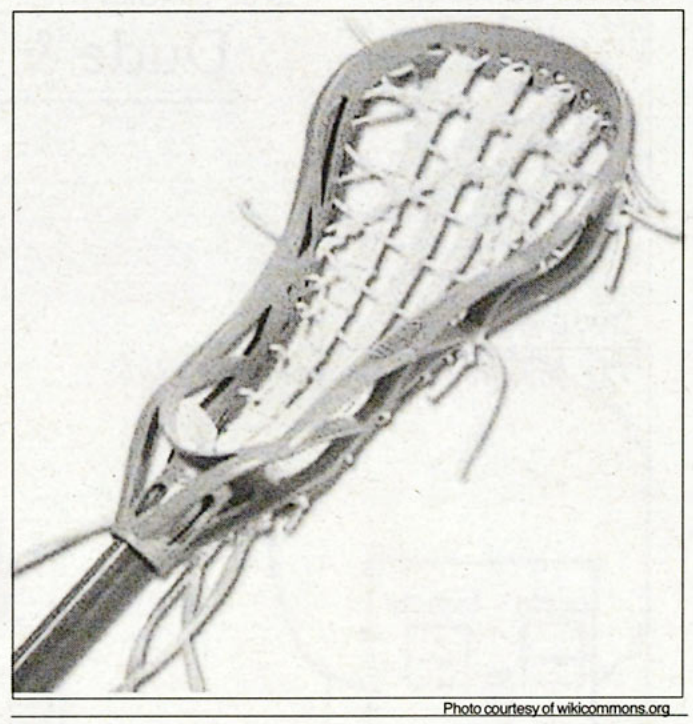


Photo courtesy of wikicommons.org

Following their double overtime victory to Belmont Abbey, Saint Leo defeated Tiffin by a score of 9-7 and are currently on a three game winning streak. Alyssa added two more goals and now has 9 points (7 goals and 2 assists) on the season. Last season she had a total of 8 points (6 goals and 2 assists).